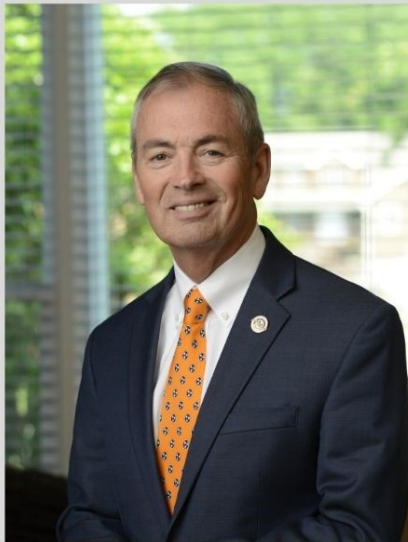




# THE COUNTY CONNECTION

A Monthly Newsletter from Mayor Randall Hutto  
Mt. Juliet | Lebanon | Watertown



## *In this newsletter:*

**Commissioner Spotlight:**  
**John P. Gentry, District 11**  
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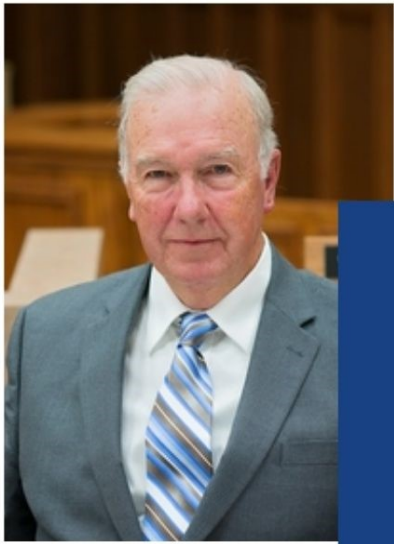
**Governor's Volunteer Stars Award Winners Announced**  
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## ***A Word from Mayor Hutto...***

The beginning of spring always seems to be especially prevalent when the buttercups bloom here in Middle Tennessee. No matter how cold and icy the winter season, the buttercups arrive in early spring standing tall and bright. It's amazing to think that something so fragile can also be so strong. Two years ago, the March 3rd storms devastated our county and neighboring areas. After such sadness, somehow our community - along with volunteers from across the nation - brought us more strength than ever before. Today, our gratitude continues to shine upon those who dropped everything to bring us aid. While our community may have seemed fragile against the fierce winds on that terrible night, it's easy to see now that we were actually standing strong together. No matter the "storm", we will continue to stand together and show that we are "Wilson County Strong." So, look around you. The buttercups are blooming! Spring is on its way.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randall Hutto".

## Commissioner Spotlight: John P. Gentry District 11



### Contact INFORMATION

2013 Woodcrest Circle  
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

+1 (615) 557-8293

## Wilson County LANDFILL

### WINTER HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY  
7:00AM-3:00PM

ALL LOADS MUST BE  
CHECKED INTO THE SCALE  
HOUSE BY 2:30 P.M.

PLEASE DIRECT  
QUESTIONS  
TO 615.449.6684

## Reminder: Vehicle Emissions Testing No Longer Required in Wilson County

We all know the drill. We get a notice in the mail reminding us that our vehicle's tags are about to expire, so we head on over to the emissions testing center - oh, wait! Vehicle emissions testing in Wilson County has come to an end! For those of you who are jumping with joy, you needn't read any further. For those of you who ask yourselves, *How?*, here's the details:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved a revision to the state's air quality plan last year, which was published in the Federal Register in August. The approval became effective on September 16, 2021, 30 days after the publication in the Federal Register. Tennessee law states elimination of vehicle emissions testing becomes effective after 120 days following EPA's approval, thus the end date of the program was, January 14, 2022.

As explained by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee General Assembly passed a bill in 2018 that eliminated vehicle emissions testing in the state 120 calendar days following EPA approval. In February 2020, the state submitted to EPA its revision to the state's air quality plan requesting removal of the vehicle emissions testing program. EPA determined that the removal of vehicle emissions testing in the state is consistent with the federal Clean Air Act and all applicable regulations. EPA's technical analysis concluded that after removal of vehicle emissions testing, the Middle Tennessee area will continue to comply with all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). To sum it all up, we no longer have to undergo vehicle emissions testing.



# Going the Extra Mile...

## Mr. Peter Prichard, Veterans' Outreach Specialist

We all know that our veterans deserve the very best, and perhaps, no one knows this better than Mr. Peter "Pete" Prichard, a Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist with the American Job Center. Recently, Mr. Pete stopped by the Wilson County Mayor's Office to fill Mayor Hutto and the team in on how he's been serving the veterans in our community.

As one of about a thousand DVOP specialists around the nation, Pete's role is to provide individualized career services to veterans who face substantial barriers to employment, with an emphasis on serving veterans who are economically and/or educationally disadvantaged, such as veterans experiencing homelessness and vocational rehabilitation challenges. With a wealth of experience, service in both the U.S. Navy and Air Force, post-baccalaureate education and years of community service, this man is making a difference in our veterans' lives.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused more and more veterans ages 50 to 75 to experience sudden unemployment. Many of these job seekers don't just want any job, they want to find suitable employment that allows them to use their skill sets. As the author of *Voyager/Veteran, The Journey to A Successful Job Search Mindset*, Pete knows that veterans face many challenges when it comes to finding meaningful employment. At the end of the day, employment that makes good use of one's skills and provides great job satisfaction is a top priority.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, DVOP specialist positions are made possible through their Jobs for Veterans (JVSG) program, which provides federal funding through a formula grant to 54 State Workforce Agencies that hire dedicated staff to provide individualized career and training-related services to veterans and eligible people.

Pete works exclusively with veterans out of his office at the Murfreesboro American Job Center and commutes to the American Job Center in Lebanon on a weekly basis to assist the veterans here in Wilson County. If you are or know of a veteran who is in need of career assistance, please contact Pete to schedule an appointment. He can be reached at 615-494-4275 and by email at [peter.pritchard@tn.gov](mailto:peter.pritchard@tn.gov).

Our veterans have made great sacrifices to protect the many freedoms we enjoy. Pete, from all of us here in the Wilson County Mayor's Office, we sincerely appreciate your service to our country *and* to our veterans. Thank you to all who serve!



**March 04**  
World Day  
of Prayer  
&  
Employee  
Appreciation Day

**March 13**  
K9 Veterans Day

**March 26**  
Purple Day for  
Epilepsy Awareness

**March 29**  
Vietnam War  
Veteran's Day

National Kidney  
Month

Multiple Sclerosis  
Awareness Month

Women's History  
Month



## Governor's Volunteer Stars Award Winners Announced

Wilson County recently recognized its nominees for the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award. A State of TN program, this initiative seeks to recognize and honor outstanding volunteers in participating counties for their volunteer service. Counties are called to select one outstanding volunteer in a youth and adult category and those winners are honored during the annual GVSA state banquet. Wilson County's tradition has been to honor all the nominees and this year is no exception. Each nominee received a plaque sponsored by Wilson Bank & Trust commemorating their dedication. For 2021, the Wilson County GVSA Committee received 12 nominations. Here are your 2021 Adult and Youth winners. Stay tuned for more information on the nominees in the following weeks! They will be spotlighted in the coming editions.

The Wilson County GVSA committee selected Ms. Joyce Gaines as the 2021 Adult Governor's Volunteer Stars Award winner. Nominated by John Grant, Joyce has served as a leader with Compassionate Hands since 2013 and helped to found the organization that has provided over 12,000 beds and 25,000 hot meals. The ministry seeks to end homelessness in Wilson County. With her guidance, Cook's Methodist was one of the first churches to host homeless guests overnight. As Compassionate Hands matured, Joyce served as treasurer and board member. She facilitated several milestones, including 501c3 status, facility purchase, and compliance for a \$761,000 HUD grant. Joyce served as a board member and chair with Mt. Juliet Help Center. As Chair, she was key in initiating a summer food program that coordinates with families receiving assistance from Wilson County schools. During her chair tenure, the organization gave out over 1,500 boxes of healthy snacks with the Summer Food Program and more than 16,000 pounds of food. This program ensures that kids have access to food when they are out of school. In 2014, she coordinated a group of church leaders to launch SALT, a ministry that provides groceries for senior adults and others unable to afford or acquire food and medicine...*continued on page 05...*



Pictured (left to right): Dejeay Woods, WBT Loan Officer, Joyce Gaines, GSVA Adult Winner, Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor



## Governor's Volunteer Stars Award Winners Announced

...continued from page 04...Ms. Nishika Shah has been named the 2021 Youth Governor's Volunteer Stars Award winner. Nominated by Greg Armstrong, Nishika has been volunteering with Run4Water, 84 Days and is a 2-year member of Friendship Christian school's Leadership Through Volunteerism program. She has led a homeless ministry in downtown Nashville and organized a Thanksgiving ministry this past year to Hancock County, Tennessee's poorest county. Nishika spent time meeting with 15 plus homes to determine needs. She guided middle students from St. Matthews school in Franklin, TN in a volunteer role with the families in Hancock County November 19-21. In addition to her local and regional community work she is a voice for girls in developing countries that do not have access to feminine hygiene products by raising awareness and funding for these young girls (84days.net). Nishika also helps to purchase and pack food bags for children in the LSSD school district that have food insecurity.

"It's an honor to recognize our volunteers. Wilson County is blessed with generous people who go above and beyond to help others. It's inspiring to hear about all the good work our volunteers do not only in our county but the region and in some cases, even other countries. Thank you volunteers. It's often a thankless service but I want you to know you are truly valued in Wilson County," says Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor.

*Congratulations  
ladies! We  
appreciate your  
volunteer spirit.*



Pictured: Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor (left), Nishika Shah, GSVA Youth Winner (right)



## Soles4Souls: Turning New Shoes into Opportunities

Last month, the Leadership Middle Tennessee class of 2022 partnered with the non-profit organization, Soles4Souls, with the goal of providing new shoes to children in need across a ten-county area within Middle Tennessee. On February 8th, Mayor Hutto met with Andy White (Executive Director, Prospect, Inc.), John McDearman (CEO Wilson Bank & Trust), and ZaBrina Seay (Director, Wilson County Veterans Services Office) to discuss the project and give them the donations collected by the County Mayor's Office. We send a special thank you to Leadership Middle Tennessee for shedding a light on this most important cause!



Pictured (left to right): Andy White (Executive Director, Prospect, Inc.), Randall Hutto (Wilson County Mayor), John McDearman (CEO Wilson Bank & Trust), ZaBrina Seay (Director, Wilson County Veterans Services Office)

## Tritium Announces Manufacturing Operations in Wilson County

Tritium officials announced last month that the company will establish its U.S. manufacturing base in Tennessee.

Tritium DCFC Limited (Tritium), a global leader in the electric vehicle (EV) charging industry, currently expects to create more than 500 new jobs over the next five years in Lebanon, TN, more than doubling its existing workforce across operations in Australia, Europe, Asia and the U.S.

Located at 1420 Toshiba Drive, Tritium's Tennessee site will serve as the company's sole U.S. facility for manufacturing modular direct current (DC) fast chargers, including the company's award-winning RTM and new PKM150 models. The facility is expected to house up to six production lines, which will produce 10,000 DC fast charger units per year, with the potential to increase production to approximately 30,000 per year at peak capacity.

Production at Tritium's Lebanon facility is targeted to begin in the third quarter of 2022 and will help the company expand its global impact to surpass the more than 3.6 million high-power charging sessions across the 41 countries where it currently has a presence.

Founded in Australia in 2001, Tritium designs and manufactures proprietary technology to create the world's most advanced and reliable DC fast chargers for electric vehicles. Today, the company has more than 450 employees across its operations in Australia, Europe, Asia and the U.S.



## Go Red for Women

According to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular diseases kill one in three women in the U.S., with cardiovascular disease as the leading cause of all maternal death.

The month of February is annually recognized as "American Heart Month" and is the primetime to raise awareness of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women® movement. This movement motivates women to learn their family history and to meet with a healthcare provider to determine their risk for cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Last month, Mayor Hutto signed a proclamation which recognized the month of February as "American Heart Month" in Wilson County, Tennessee. Wilson County Government employees were happy to show their support and raise awareness of the Go Red for Women movement last month. During the week of February 7th, the Wilson County Courthouse was lit in red lights each night, and on February 17th, county employees wore red as their show of support.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this worthy cause!



**March 4, 2022**

Thank you for all that you do for the citizens of our county. You are truly appreciated!

MARCH 4, 2022

## World Day of Prayer

May you have a blessed and peaceful day ahead.







## February 19-26th Proclaimed FFA Week in Wilson County, TN

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) promotes premier leadership, personal growth and career success among its members. Agricultural education and F.F.A. ensure a steady supply of young professionals to meet the growing needs in the science, business, and technology of agriculture.

Last month, Mayor Hutto signed a proclamation which proclaimed February 19-26, 2022, as "FFA Week" in Wilson County. He was joined by FFA students from Lebanon High School to witness the proclamation signing.

We thank the students who have taken an active role in succeeding in agricultural education. They certainly embody the FFA motto "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve."

Pictured: (back row, left to right) Graham Campbell, Ryan Wick, Wade Dunaway (2nd row, left to right) Hallie Anne Teel, Lauren Johnson, Macy Scruggs, Summer Major (seated) Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor



Join us for a fun spring shopping event with  
**VENDORS GALORE All Under One Roof!**

**Free Admission**  
Friday: 4-9 p.m.  
Saturday: 9-4 p.m.



For more information, visit our facebook page at:  
[Facebook.com/HappeningsAtTheMill](https://www.facebook.com/HappeningsAtTheMill)

615-443-6901 x 1 • [TheMillatLebanon.com](http://TheMillatLebanon.com) • 300 N. Maple St • Lebanon

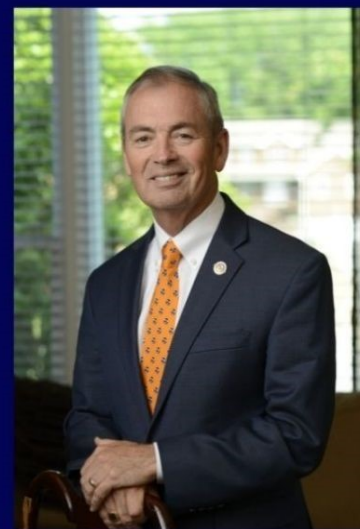
### ***Meet the Mayor***

*the last Wednesday of every month*

*Mt. Juliet  
Chamber of Commerce  
9:00AM - 10:00AM*

*Watertown  
The Depot Junction Cafe  
11:00AM - 12:00PM*

*Lebanon  
Chamber of Commerce  
1:00PM - 2:00PM*





# Wilson County "The Place to Be" Specialty License Plates Available for Purchase

Sales to Benefit Wilson Rides, Inc.

The Wilson County Specialty License Plates are a great way to support Wilson County's very own transportation service for seniors, Wilson Rides, Inc. a non-profit. **You can be one of the first 1,000 residents with a specialty license plate for our county.**

Sign up now!

You can help make these license plates available in Wilson County by taking part in the pre-sale. Plates will only be produced once **1,000 signatures** and \*\$35 per plate are collected! Plates will be mailed to the County Clerk, and you will be notified by mail by the Tennessee Department of Revenue, Vehicle Services Division when your specialty license plate is available. Usual license registrations fees apply, and your specialty plate fee of \$35 will have been pre-paid.

Pre-order and pay for your specialty tags by one of the following ways:

- Go to <https://wilsonridesinc.org/product/license-plate/>, enter the number of plates you want, click on "Add to Cart", and fill out the contact form. Pay online by credit card at this site.  
\*Note: This product is \$37 if paid by Credit Card (Stripe) or Venmo, and \$35 if paid by Check.
- Hold your phone camera over the QR Code and follow the same procedure as above.

**Please act now!** The sooner 1,000 people sign up, the sooner the license plates will be available for all.

\*Specialty plates are not available for commercial or government tags.

For more information, visit [www.wilsonridesinc.org](http://www.wilsonridesinc.org) or contact:

Gaye Lynn Wilson, Director of Wilson Rides, Inc.  
gayelynn@wilsonridesinc.org  
615-622-5557

Susan Shaw, Office of Wilson County Mayor  
shawsu@wilsoncountyttn.gov  
615-444-1383





## Wilson County Courthouse Celebrates Women's History Month

The Wilson County Courthouse is presenting To Make Our Voices Heard: Tennessee Women's Fight for the Vote, a traveling exhibition, on display now through Wednesday, March 9th in honor of Women's History Month. The exhibition, created in partnership with the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee State Library and Archives, explores the history of the women's suffrage movement, Tennessee's dramatic vote to ratify the 19th Amendment in 1920, and the years that followed. The Wilson County Courthouse is located at 228 East Main Street in Lebanon, TN. The courthouse is open Monday through Friday from 8:00A.M.-4:00P.M. Patrons and visitors alike may enter through the building's front doors to view the exhibit. The exhibit admission is FREE of charge and will be displayed upstairs in front of the County Commission meeting room.

**TO MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD**  
**TENNESSEE WOMEN'S FIGHT FOR THE VOTE**

Women throughout the United States secured the right to vote in 1920 when Tennessee became the final state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The fight for this right began as early as 1848, with the Declaration of Sentiments, at the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. The convention was inspired by the experiences of African American and white women in the abolitionist movement to end slavery.

**SUFFRAGIST LEADERS**

**SOJOURNER TRUTH**  
**CATHERINE KENNY**  
**IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT**

**1920 2020 TENNESSEE WOMAN SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL**  
**Humanities Tennessee**  
**TENNESSEE STATE MUSEUM**  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**

To Make Our Voices Heard was funded in part by a grant from Humanities Tennessee, an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

*"As a leader in Wilson County, I am proud to offer this exhibit for the third consecutive year and commemorate the extraordinary women of Tennessee who rallied for women's suffrage and ultimately made it possible," said Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto.*



# Save the Date!

## COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY!



<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meet</b>
April 30	8:00am - 12:00pm	New Public Works Building 406 TN Blvd.

### Interested in Participating?

Email your name, email address and phone number with the subject line "Let Lebanon Shine" to Debbie Jessen at [debbiej@lebanontn.org](mailto:debbiej@lebanontn.org) or call 615.443.2839 ext. 2102  
Stand by for more details!

*Thank you for wanting to Let Lebanon Shine!*

*in remembrance of*  
those who lost their lives during  
the March 2-3, 2020 storms

PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP THEIR  
LOVED ONES IN YOUR PRAYERS



### ATTENTION!

If you were affected by the December 2021 storm, you may be eligible for assistance. Visit Wilson County's website to view the list of assistance provided by FEMA, TEMA, SBA & USDA.

<https://www.wilsoncountyttn.gov/county-mayor/mayor-s-latest-blog/entry/wilson-county-qualifies-for-federal-help-to-support-recovery-from-december-tornadoes>



## Fair on the Square

### New Year! New Career!

### Lebanon / Wilson County Career Fair

March 16<sup>th</sup> 2022  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

@  
**Capitol Theatre**  
110 W Main St,  
Lebanon, TN 37087

For more info, email:  
[antonio.v.scott@tn.gov](mailto:antonio.v.scott@tn.gov)  
or  
[jeffrey.glidden@tn.gov](mailto:jeffrey.glidden@tn.gov)  
or call 615 898-8081

#### Now Hiring for:

Perma-pipe, Wonder Porcelain  
Amazon, Millarrich, Waffle House,  
PFG, MoldEx, Wilson County  
Schools  
Carvana, Yates (Nissan), CSC,  
1Direction Staffing, Royal Canin,  
FedEx, Leviton, Under Armour,  
Schwan Cosmetics USA  
Logistics, Retail, Customer Service,  
Production and more...

Bring copies of your resume and your award-winning attitude.

**AmericanJobCenter**  
TENNESSEE





# **ATTENTION**

## **NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS**



keep your eyes out for  
the April edition of  
the County Connection

**WE'LL BE MOVING TO A NEW FORMAT  
VIA MAILCHIMP. GIVE US A CALL IF YOU  
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!**

**615-444-1383**